

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete the graphic illustrations found on:

- page 17 at lines 5 and 10;
- page 18;
- page 19 at lines 1 and 5;
- page 20 at lines 1 and 10;
- page 21 at lines 1 and 4;
- page 22 at lines 1 and 8;
- page 23 at lines 12 and 18;
- page 24 at lines 1 and 15;
- page 24 at lines 17 and 30;
- page 26 at lines 1 and 4; and
- page 26 at lines 5 and 20;

Please add the following after the paragraph ending at page 4, line 26 and before the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 29:

-- BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig 1 is a graph depicting the results from studies on the effect of pre-operative supplementation on intestinal permeability.

Fig 2 is a graph depicting results from studies on the effect of pre-operative supplementation on bacterial translocation.

Fig 3 is a graph depicting results from studies on the effect of pre-operative supplementation on neutrophil infiltration.

Fig 4 is a graph depicting results from studies on the effect of pre-operative supplementation on plasma urea concentration.

Fig 5 is a graph depicting results from studies on the effect of pre-operative supplementation on asymmetrical dimethylarginine and IL-6 concentrations.

Fig 6 is a graph depicting results from studies on the effect of pre-operative supplementation on GTP concentration in the liver.

Fig 7 is a graph depicting results from studies on the effect of pre-operative supplementation on kidney plasma creatine concentration.

Fig 8 is a graph depicting results from studies on the effect of pre-operative supplementation on plasma urea concentration.

Fig 9 is a graph depicting results on the effect of folic acid on GTP concentration in HepG2 cells.

Fig 10 is a graph depicting results from studies on the effect of ribose on GTP concentration in HepG2. –

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 11 and ending on page 17 line 17 with the following paragraph.

Fasted operated rats showed an increased bacterial translocation to the liver, kidney and mesenteric lymph nodes (**Fig. 2A-C.**) when compared to sham fasted rats or sham fed rats. Preoperative supplementation of the carbohydrate drink significantly decreased bacterial translocation to the liver, kidney and mesenteric lymph nodes (~~**Fig 3A-C.**~~) (**Fig 2A-C.**) as compared to IR fasted animals. Furthermore, a trend ($P=0.07$) to decreased bacterial translocation was seen in the spleen of preoperative fed animals (**Fig 2D.**)